

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:

applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a ~~The method of claim 1, wherein said~~ lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety is in the form of a lower alkyl carboxylic acid anion effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface, and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture retentive barrier over said surface.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:

applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface, and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture retentive barrier over said surface ~~The method of claim 1, wherein~~ said anti-corrosion agent and said material capable of forming a

moisture retentive barrier over a surface of said metal are in powdered form.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ±4, wherein said anti-corrosion agent and said material capable of forming a moisture retentive barrier over a surface of said metal are both provided in powdered form to produce a powdered composition; and wherein said powdered composition is applied to a surface of said metal by powder metallurgy processing.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ±2, wherein said material capable of forming a moisture retentive barrier over a surface of said metal is selected from the group consisting of a polar liquid, a nonpolar liquid, a viscous material, an organic liquid, a polymeric material and a petroleum-based substance, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ±2, wherein said composition further comprises any one of a polar liquid, a non-polar liquid, a surfactant, an antioxidant, ~~all~~ an organic liquid, a polymeric material, a petroleum-based substance, a buffering material, or graphite or particulate carbon in a suspension.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:

applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety

effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface,
and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier
forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture
retentive barrier over said surface~~The method of claim 1, wherein~~
said anti-corrosion agent is packaged for delayed release.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said anti-corrosion agent is encapsulated.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein in said composition, said anti-corrosion agent is present at a concentration from about 0.2 to about 60 percent by weight.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said composition is first prepared in concentrated form and then diluted.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, said method further comprising, following said applying step, the step of applying a further coating layer over said surface.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said further coating layer is applied by a process selected from the group consisting of painting, electro-plating and electro-polishing.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said applying step comprises using said composition as a lubricant for a surface of said metal.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said applying step comprises using said composition as a pump oil or brake fluid.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:

applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety that is~~The method of claim 1, wherein said lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety is~~derived from a C1-C6 carboxylate and is effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface, and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture retentive barrier over said surface~~anion.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein said C1-C6 carboxylate ~~anion~~ is selected from the group consisting of formate, acetate, propionate, butyrate, and 2-methyl propionate, and mixtures thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said C1-C6 carboxylate ~~anion is associated with~~comprises a cation selected from alkali metal or alkaline earth metal cations.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said cation is sodium.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~7, wherein said lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety is derived from sodium propionate.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~2, wherein said anti-corrosion agent is ingestible by humans.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein said composition further comprises at least one additional anti-corrosive agent that is different from said lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety and ~~that~~ which is also ingestible by humans.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~23~~2, wherein ~~said at least one additional anti-corrosion agent comprises~~ further comprising a 2,4-trans, trans-hexadiene moiety.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said 2,4-trans, trans-hexadiene moiety is in the form of a 2,4-trans, trans-hexadienoate anion.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said composition further comprises at least one compound capable of increasing the solubility of said ingestible anti-corrosion agent.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:

applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface,
~~The method of claim 1,~~ wherein said composition further comprises a ~~benzeate~~ benzoic moiety, and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture retentive barrier over said surface.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:

applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface, and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture retentive barrier over said surface~~The method of claim 1,~~ wherein said lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety~~composition~~ comprises a ~~propionate moiety~~ propionic anion, and wherein said composition further comprises a 2,4-trans, trans-hexadienoate ~~hexadienoic moiety anion~~ and a ~~benzeate~~ benzoic moiety anion.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal or a device containing a metal wherein said metal is susceptible to oxidative corrosion;

providing an anti-corrosion solution, said solution comprising an effective amount of an anti-corrosion agent dissolved in a polar solvent, said agent comprising a C1-C6 carboxylic acid moiety~~The method of claim 29, wherein said C1-C6 carboxylic acid moiety is~~in the form of a propionate anion; and
continuously immersing said metal or said device in said solution.

31-71. (Cancelled)